

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on April 26, 2002, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 21 - 25, 27, 29, 91 and 99 are amended, claim 31 is canceled without prejudice, and claims 100 - 151 are added; as a result, claims 21 - 30 and 91 - 151 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests that a copy of the 1449 Form, listing all references that were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the application on August 31, 2000, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next official communication.

§103 Rejection of the Claims


Claims 21-31 and 91-99 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adetutu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,430) in view of Augusto (U.S. Patent No. 6,143,593).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant respectfully asserts that neither the Adetutu et al. reference nor the Augusto reference are valid references for the rejection. The Adetutu et al. reference has a filing date of April 2, 2001 and an issue date of April 9, 2002. The Augusto reference has a filing date of September 29, 1998 and an issue date of November 7, 2000.

The present application has a filing date of August 31, 2000. Additionally, the present application is a continuation of US Application Ser. No. 08/912,051 filed August 18, 1997 (US Pat. 6,144,095, Issued November 7, 2000), which is a continuation of US Application Ser. No. 08/656,712 filed June 3, 1996 (US Pat. 5,662,788, Issued September 2, 1997).

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection, and reconsideration and allowance of the claims.



Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the recited subject matter. These claim amendments are not made for the purpose of avoiding the § 103(a) rejection, for the reasons stated above. Additionally, these claim amendments should not be interpreted as an indication that Applicant agrees with the assertions made in the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6960 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

GURTEJ SINGH SANDHU ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 18 day of July, 2002.

Name Tina Kohout

Signature Z. Kolant